

KAPPA ALPHA

THE TA

Magazine



PAGE 12

Measuring Theta

Understanding what our college sisters gain from their Theta involvement.

PAGE 14

Gifted Storyteller

Writing for a hit TV show, a Theta author brings make-believe to life.

PAGE 34

Words of Wisdom

Taking care of yourself during emotionally challenging times.

IN THIS ISSUE

SUMMER 2018 | VOLUME 132, NO. 4

ON THE COVER: Simran Baidwan, Zeta Rho/UC San Diego

4

THETA MATTERS

6

LEADING WOMEN



7

FHC: WELCOME HOME

8

HEARTBREAK ...
AND BLESSINGS

Friends and strangers lent
support when disaster
struck.

9

THETA FOUNDATION

10

PROTECTING THETA'S
FUTURE

When oversight overraches,
we must be prepared to
answer and to act.

12

MEASURING THE
MEMBERSHIP
EXPERIENCE

Seemingly counter-intuitive,
data helps us better under-
stand Theta involvement.



14

GIFTED STORYTELLER

Stories pressing to be told
prompt an intriguing
career change.

18

SITE TO SEE

19

GRAND CONVENTON
2018

20

CELEBRATINGTHETA@

A Grand Convention
archives display explored
past Grand Conventions.
(Very meta!)



22

10 QUESTIONS WITH
ONE THETA

24

SNAPSHOTS

28

#THETASGOTYOURBACK

Theta embodies and
celebrates women
supporting women,
perhaps better than
any organization.

30

THE POWER OF ONE

... plus 216,799. Just
imagine the possibilities.

31

ASK THE ARCHIVIST

32

THETA LIFE LOYAL

34

WORDS OF WISDOM

36

VOICES

How to Define the Indefinable

BY: LIZ APPEL RINCK | GAMMA/BUTLER



How do you describe the ineffable? How do
you define the indefinable? How do you make
the abstract concrete?

And why am I posing these vaguely
philosophical questions? Let me explain.

In the Spring 2018 issue of this magazine, we
announced a new Theta brand campaign and
explained how we've updated our logo and the
design of our printed pieces, introduced
a modernized website, and renovated our

magazine, all with the goal of characterizing our membership
experience in such a way that everyone who comes into contact with
Kappa Alpha Theta gets a sense of who we are and what we do.

These visual expressions of the Theta's brand identity are
important, but they are not the entirety. We live in a world that
encompasses heart-breaking news accounts of hazing-related and
alcohol-fueled student deaths. A world in which college students
incur educational debt and must hold jobs (sometimes more than
one) and for whom the pressures of campus life may seem to
render the sorority experience immaterial. A world that too often
values the quantitative over the qualitative.

And that's why I asked those philosophical questions. Because in
this world, an eye-catching logo and beautiful communications
vehicles can take us just so far. If Theta is to celebrate not only
our 150th anniversary in 2020 but also an additional 150
anniversaries, it is crucial that we explain the abstract concept
of "Theta-ness" as concrete actuality.

We don't—of course—often need to do that with one another.
With slight differences produced by generation and geography, we
know intuitively what Theta is and means. But can we convey that
to those who don't know Theta or to those who think they know
us from the most distressing news stories of campus tragedies?

I'm sure you're familiar with the term *elevator pitch*. It's a brief,
persuasive speech used to spark interest in what an organization
does. A good one should last no longer than a short elevator ride
of about 30 seconds, hence the name.

Do you have one? An elevator pitch for Kappa Alpha Theta?
It's fabulous if you do, because your 30-second story about what
you're passionate about in Theta could have amazing impact, could
inspire a parent to encourage her daughter to participate in
recruitment, could influence a reporter to shine a light on the
positive effects of sorority membership. (That really happened!)

If you don't have a Theta elevator pitch, I encourage you to create
one. Spend five minutes jotting down everything you want to say
about Kappa Alpha Theta. Don't hold back: you'll edit later. Next,
spend five minutes eliminating the redundancies, deciding what's
important and what isn't, and fitting what remains on a Post-it
note. Finally, spend about five minutes reading aloud and refining
what you've written. It should sound like normal conversation, not
like something you've memorized. Voilà: your Theta elevator pitch.

Now take it on the road. Because you—yes, you!—are one of the
most effective ambassadors Theta has. You have the power to
define the indefinable.

The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine (ISSN 0746-3529) is published quarterly by Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity for Women, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Postmaster: send address changes to the Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Periodical-class postage paid at Indianapolis, IN, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription \$1. Printed in the United States.

FRATERNITY PRESIDENT

Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern

CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Sierk Corridan, Beta Omicron/Iowa

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS/EDITOR

Elizabeth Appel Rinck, Gamma/Butler

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Isabella Markovski, Alpha/DePauw

MANUAL COORDINATOR

Lorie Larson Land, Alpha Chi/Purdue

FRATERNITY HEADQUARTERS

8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268-1300
Phone: 317.876.1870 | 1.800.526.1870
Fax: 317.876.1925
Email: info@kappaalphatheta.org
Website: kappaalphatheta.org

SEND COPY & CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Elizabeth Rinck, Editor
Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Headquarters,
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 150
Email: lrinck@kappaalphatheta.org

SEND NOTICES OF DEATHS TO:

Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Headquarters,
Attn.: Membership Coordinator
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 107
Email: gbrown@kappaalphatheta.org

SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO:

Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Headquarters,
Attn.: Data Entry
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 323
Email: info@kappaalphatheta.org

Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, founded at Indiana Asbury
College (DePauw University), Greencastle, Indiana, on January
27, 1870, is the first Greek-letter fraternity for women.

"Kappa Alpha Theta," "Theta," its coat of arms, its badges, and
the Leading Women logo are registered trademarks of Kappa
Alpha Theta Fraternity.

© 2018 Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form
without written permission from Kappa Alpha Theta.

NOTICES:

- Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially
recognized student organization at Santa Clara and
Georgetown, these schools prohibit using their names in
any published reference to our Eta Lambda and Theta
Iota Chapters. We designate those chapters with a tilde (~)
accompanied by the name of the school.

theta matters



Beta Lambda/William & Mary

Thetas Advocate, Celebrate, & Educate!

FOR THE KIDS

This spring, Charlotte Klammer, executive director of Colonial CASA in Williamsburg, Virginia, wrote to us about the Thetas of the Beta Lambda Chapter at William & Mary. She wrote, “Seldom in my long career have I encountered such extraordinary young people so consistently eager and thoughtful, so unfailingly enthusiastic and supportive, and so dependably willing and excited to help.

“I look back on the relationships over the years and know without question the girls (“our” Thetas!) have invested countless hours to increase awareness about CASA, to raise money for our program, and to help us at our events and gatherings. Always they have been bright, happy, smiling and

helpful, and always—always—doing what they do for our CASA kids. Time and time again I’ve noticed when plates are full and schedules are heavy, they are the first to say that they will keep going because it’s all about the kids. And they mean it.

“These young women were raised to act responsibly by their parents and other people who loved them; but they continue to form their characters with the women who surround them in the sorority and from the Theta leaders who nurture them into full adulthood. I think they are exceptional, and I thank you for the job you do, the roles you lead, and the women you encourage to be all that they can be in every role they serve in their families and in their communities.”

POWERFUL VOICES

Collegians Tara Al-Haj, Alpha Nu/Montana; Taylor Finley, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma; and Porter Geer, Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt, were chosen from an applicant pool of more than 40 Thetas to travel to Washington, DC, in April to advocate for Greek issues. Theta traditionally participates in this day of Capitol Hill visits, familiarly known as Lobbying Day, which are organized by the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition, comprising the National Panhellenic Conference, North-American Interfraternity Conference, and the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee.

It is important for Greek organizations to help educate and inform Congressional staff and representatives about the importance of the single-sex experience, freedom of association, and due process, especially as the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act works its way through Congress.

One hundred and thirty-five alumni from 21 NPC and 17 NIC groups and 102 collegians completed 457 visits on Capitol Hill this year. Theta’s alumnae representatives were Mary Jane Parker Beach, Beta Nu/Florida State; Laurie McGregor Connor, Gamma deutron/Ohio Wesleyan; Kellie Dickerson, Zeta Lambda/Charleston, and Cindy Heine Stellhorn, Beta/Indiana. We were proud to be recognized at the annual FSPAC dinner for our achievements in participation (Platinum level) and dollars raised.



Ashlee Moody Davis, Zeta Eta/Wofford; Sydney Rose, Eta Rho/James Madison; Madison Motley Nash, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma; and Mary Jane Parker Beach, Beta Nu/Florida State at a reception preceding Lobbying Day.

ANOTHER POMODORO

It’s not just tomato sauce! It’s also a timing strategy to help you get things done. Set a timer for 25 minutes and do only one task the whole time. No breaks. No distractions. Once the 25 minutes are up, take five. Then get back to work for another 25 minutes. This approach helps you focus on one thing at a time and get stuff done more quickly.

theta matters



On April 25, Theta staff members wore denim to say that clothing choice has nothing to do with sexual assault.

#DENIMDAY

For the past 19 years, a Wednesday in April—Sexual Violence Awareness Month—has marked Denim Day. This rape education campaign was originally triggered by a ruling in the Italian Supreme Court in which a rape conviction was overturned. The justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent.

The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a visible means of protest against the misconceptions and destructive attitudes that surround sexual assault.

RECRUITMENT FYI

During 2017-18 recruitment, more than 91 percent of Theta chapters achieved quota on their respective campuses. Average quota across all campuses that are home to a Theta chapter was 43.37. Of the 2,631 legacies who participated in recruitment, 34.61 percent pledged Theta.

theta matters

LEADING WOMEN

It's true that the phrase *leading women* is open to interpretation! It's also true that each Theta is a leading woman in her own way. We want to know all the ways our sisters work hard to become their best selves—and help others do so as well.

Subjects of our past Leading Woman articles share notable traits: drive, passion, and determination. We know Thetas are making waves all over the world, and we're so eager to know more about you. Tell us your stories! (Send an email to Isabella Markovski, Alpha/DePauw, assistant editor, imarkovski@kappaalphatheta.org)



Lynda Malugen Wiley, Alpha Mu/Missouri



Samantha Schmidt, Beta/Indiana



Sasha Digiulian, Epsilon Upsilon/Columbia



Jessica Lee, Phi deutron/Stanford



Deb Portsche Paschke, Rho/Nebraska

FRATERNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

FHC embarks on multiple
new builds, each with
its own personality

• WELCOME •

HOME

DELTA OMICRON/ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa, Alabama - Anticipated completion fall 2019

Cole & Cole, located in Birmingham, Alabama, did a great job of blending features from the old house into the new design. The Theta house sits under the shadow of the football stadium and is one of the best locations on campus! The second-floor chapter room will lead onto a balcony that will be great for alumnae events, football weekends, and other chapter activities. FHC would like to thank all Delta Omicron sisters who have contributed to the capital campaign. If you'd like to learn more about how you can support the campaign, please contact Teresa Smith, FHC executive director, tsmith@kappaalphatheta.org.



THETA NU/GEORGIA TECH

Atlanta, Georgia - Anticipated completion fall 2019

Designed by Hug & Associates located in Atlanta, Georgia. Buildings on Georgia Tech's campus are primarily Collegiate Gothic in style, but the architecture of Technology Square, located close to the Theta house, allowed us to bridge the gap between the traditional and the contemporary. The design gives a nod to classic architecture and seamlessly fits in with other Greek houses.

GAMMA IOTA/KENTUCKY

Lexington, Kentucky - Anticipated completion fall 2020

Designed by EOP Architects located in Lexington, Kentucky. The University of Kentucky has very strict guidelines regarding buildings in their Greek Park. Houses are required to be built in the Neoclassical Greek Revival or Federalist style. Our house leans toward the Federalist style, with large windows and a classic red brick exterior. FHC would like to thank all Gamma Iota sisters who have contributed to the capital campaign. If you'd like to learn more about how you can support the campaign, please contact Teresa Smith, FHC executive director, tsmith@kappaalphatheta.org.



THETA THETA/NC STATE

Raleigh, North Carolina - Anticipated completion fall 2020

This building, designed by Cline Design located in Raleigh, North Carolina, portrays classic southern charm. We are so excited about the light, airy feeling of this house! With a mixture of materials including a metal roof, and a brick façade with some shake siding, this modern take on traditional Southern style will be breathtaking!

Facility designs may be subject to change.

HEARTBREAK ...AND BLESSINGS

Disaster brings heartbreak. But it also brings blessings. This is the story of just that.

BY MARY LEIGH WARDEN, ALPHA NU/MONTANA

On October 8, 2017, Karla Chandler Bailey, Alpha Nu/Montana, was awakened from a deep sleep in her Napa, California, home by the ringing of her cell phone. “Karla, there’s a huge fire getting close to your house!”

This was the urgent voice of a long-time friend. Karla got out of bed, looked out the bedroom window. A massive cloud of orange smoke covered the night sky. She dialed fire emergency. Continuous ringing, and no answer. Karla called her grandson Justin, and a few minutes later, Justin called back. The sheriff wouldn’t allow him to drive up the mountain: the road was blocked. “You have to leave immediately; get out now!”

Karla threw on some clothes, grabbed a flashlight, loaded her two dogs into her Jeep, and, in howling wind, headed down the winding road, leaving behind the log home she and her husband, Larry, had built 44 years ago. A fallen tree blocked the road about one and one-half miles down. Forty minutes later, the road was cleared, and Karla continued cautiously down the mountain. Now the flames of the Napa Valley wildfires were visible. Embers flew; smoke filled the spaces.

THAT WAS THE WORST DRIVE OF MY LIFE...

Safely at the bottom of the mountain, Karla and the gathering of neighbors had nothing to do but watch ... and to clutch even the tiniest hint of hope that anything would be spared.

The next day’s news was consumed by stories of the fire. Residents didn’t know what destruction the flames had left in their path, and they weren’t allowed on the mountain for 16 days after the fire. At last, the viewing was allowed, and the sight was heart-wrenching.

Karla and seven friends solemnly sifted through the piles of ashes where the Bailey’s home once stood. Two treasures were uncovered: Karla’s wedding ring (in need of cleaning and repair) and her Theta mug (broken but salvageable).

For the past year and a half, Karla’s husband, Larry, has lived in a home for people whose lives have been taken over by Alzheimer’s. Karla has told Larry about the fire and the loss of their cedar log home, but she knows he is unaware and will not remember. A blessing.

Nancy Halverson Cabe, Alpha Nu/Montana, notified Karla’s Theta sisters. We have always been boastfully proud of our strong, lasting bond. Now the bond emerged even stronger, surrounding our sister with Theta love and kindnesses, thoughts and prayers never ending.

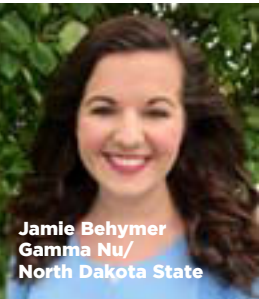


Linda Forehand Currie, Alpha Nu/Montana, whose foundation, Out of the Ashes, provides assistance to those experiencing loss from fire, offered expert guidance. And in the days ahead, other glimmers of hope peeked through. Karla found the perfect fifth-wheel camper, bought it, and had it moved onto the Atlas Peak property. Karla’s camper is appropriately named ASHley. (“Ashley” suggested by yours truly and adjusted fondly by Karla to “ASHley”!) When Linda Currie read about ASHley in a group email, she found the perfect door mat online, personalized it with “ASHley,” and had it sent to Karla on behalf of all of us. Tears from Karla when she opened this gift ... and tears from yours truly when she told me about it.

Wildfires wreaked disaster throughout the Napa Valley. But the devastation has been overcome by the blessings, the kindnesses. Friends and strangers have emerged to take notice, lend support and “pay it forward” for our Theta sister in this time of need.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Founders Memorial Scholarships are awarded each year to four outstanding junior-class undergraduates who embody the characteristics and perpetuate the ideals of Bettie Locke Hamilton, Alice Allen Brant, Hannah Fitch Shaw, and Bettie Tipton Lindsey. Each of the 2017-18 recipients is not only passionate about academic achievement and Kappa Alpha Theta but also about making a difference in the world.



Bettie Locke Hamilton

One of Jamie Behymer’s passions is lifting up those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. As a sibling to a brother with autism, she has been involved with Special Olympics since high school and is now an intern at Special Olympics International. She is the current president of the Special Olympics College Program at her university and has planned and hosted multiple Unified Rivalry Series Basketball Games, showcasing the talent and passion of individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. She is committed to both her campus and wider community, serving as a volunteer for local organizations like the statewide food bank and crisis centers. She is currently chief external affairs officer (CEAO) of her chapter and inspires her sisters to embody the principles of personal excellence and commitment to service while promoting an atmosphere of inclusivity. Behymer is pursuing a degree in management communication.



Alice Allen Brant

Madisyn Waage is pursuing a degree in medical biology with a pre-med focus. She is the current chief executive officer (CEO) of her chapter and is committed to increasing transparency, encouraging an atmosphere of respect, and setting and reaching goals. She is passionate about helping others, as demonstrated through her participation in the University of South Dakota Serve program. She has mentored a third grader who needed help with homework, assisted residents in a nursing home create crafts to fill their time, and spearheaded a reading group for elementary students. In addition to her campus and community commitments, Waage has worked to spread the widest influence for good globally. This year, she led a group of 12 students from her university on a service trip to Guatemala, during which time they built a house for an impoverished family.



Hannah Fitch Shaw

Naomi Tsai is pursuing a degree in organismal biology and ecology and practices what she preaches when it comes to environmentalism. On campus, she works as a resident advisor with an environmental sustainability focus and is involved with the Outdoor Recreation Committee, working toward the highest level of outdoor leadership certification the program offers. She recently studied tropical rainforests and marine ecosystems in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. She assists with an extracurricular American Sign Language class on campus, utilizing many years of communicating in ASL with her deaf father. Tsai currently serves her chapter as chief administrative officer (CAO), working with the CEO to build a stronger sisterhood and presence on their campus and in the community.



Bettie Tipton Lindsey

Erica Randall is pursuing an undergraduate degree in nutritional sciences and a master’s degree in dietetics at the University of Oklahoma and has already proven herself as a future leader in the field. During an internship at a local food and resource center, she designed and implemented a new “heart-healthy” labeling program to increase nutritional awareness among those receiving food assistance. She also served as the president of the Student Dietetic Association. Earlier this year, she was named a Big Woman on Campus and received OU’s Outstanding Junior Award. Randall represents her university as a Crimson Club member, serving as an ambassador and hosting dignitaries and alumni during their visits to campus. She exemplifies servant leadership through her role as CEO of her chapter, leading by example and motivating members to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

HELP MAKE AN IMPACT

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 27: it’s #GivingTuesday! This international day of giving is also a day when Thetas everywhere have the opportunity to exemplify the widest influence for good. We can’t wait to see how, together, we can help Thetas become their best! Whether it’s providing scholarship support, developing women’s leadership potential, giving back through service and philanthropy, or simply the lifelong support network, Theta makes a difference. In celebration of all that Theta means to you, we hope you’ll #GivetoTheta on #GivingTuesday! (More information will be posted to kappaalphatheta.org and on social media this fall.)

PROTECTING Theta's Future

Excerpted from the opening address of Grand Convention 2018 by
then-Fraternity President Laura Ware Doerre, Delta XI/North Carolina.

FROM OUR EARLIEST DAYS—NEARLY 150 YEARS AGO—KAPPA ALPHA THETA HAS FACED RESISTANCE TO OUR VERY EXISTENCE; IN FACT, SOME OF OUR EARLIEST CHAPTERS WERE ESTABLISHED IN SECRECY BECAUSE OF DISAPPROVING CAMPUS COMMUNITIES. ACTIONS BY OTHER CAMPUS GROUPS, INCLUDING MEN'S FRATERNITIES, FUEL STEREOTYPES AND MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT WOMEN'S FRATERNITIES. THESE FALSE IMPRESSIONS OBVIOUSLY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THETA'S ABILITY TO RECRUIT AT CURRENT COLLEGE CHAPTERS AND TO ESTABLISH NEW ONES.

A group appointed by Grand Council—the enterprise risk management committee—is charged with monitoring and recommending actions in regard to risks that threaten Kappa Alpha Theta. Their current priorities include those related to today's environment, in which a growing number of legislators and policy-makers seek to curtail our rights. It is not alarmist to say that these risks actually threaten our survival.

As regular readers of this magazine know, Harvard University has finalized sanctions that prevent members of single-gender organizations, including sororities, from holding student group leadership positions, varsity athletic team captaincies, and certain prestigious fellowships. Harvard's president first introduced the penalties in May 2016, and the Harvard Corporation voted in early December 2017 to retain the policy, which is effective for the class of 2021 (last year's freshmen).

With deep sadness, we announce that Grand Council accepted the charter of the Zeta Xi Chapter at Harvard, relinquished by a unanimous vote of chapter members on July 15. The disestablishment of Zeta Xi is a direct result of the sanctions placed by Harvard administrators on single-gender Greek organizations. It is extremely unfortunate that the members of Zeta Xi were forced by Harvard to choose between their Theta affiliation and the academic and leadership opportunities afforded other college students.

In other parts of the US, there has been a troubling trend toward suspending the entire Panhellenic and Interfraternity systems for the actions of a single member or member group. Administrators at the University of Minnesota and Cal Polytechnic State have demonstrated a willingness to deprive members of Greek-life organizations of some basic constitutional rights. There has been plenty of media coverage of these suspensions, but little commentary on the fact that every one of these suspensions discriminates against women. Every mass suspension has occurred because of misconduct allegations against a male fraternity member or members, but it is thousands of women who are held accountable without cause or due process. It's inconceivable that an entire university football team would be suspended for a violation by one team member or a member of another sports team. The hypocrisy is disturbing.

At Cornell in May, the university's president announced policy changes that will be effective beginning this fall. These include oversight by the university of Greek organizations' new member education programs, publication of previously confidential records of university discipline imposed on student groups, and mandating requirements for chapter leadership positions within sororities and fraternities. Despite claims that these changes "strengthen fraternities and sororities," they actually curtail our autonomy and authority.

Regulations threatening our existence are not limited to college campuses. A bill proposed in the Tennessee House of Representatives will, if passed, prohibit fraternities and sororities from operating on state university campuses throughout the state. The sponsor of the bill has said he introduced the legislation hoping to force a conversation about the role of Greek organizations after a year of high-profile hazing incidents. Although this legislation would not directly affect Theta because we have no active chapters at state institutions in Tennessee, the potential precedent is alarming.

Advocating for the rights of the entire fraternity and sorority community is vital for Theta. Working in collaboration with the member groups of the National Panhellenic Conference and the National Interfraternity Council, we are engaged in the political process through the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee, which supports a bipartisan slate of lawmakers to help us defend the fraternal experience. This includes safeguarding our rights as part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act by the US Congress. Key provisions of this act protect students' rights to freely associate with a single-sex social organization, improve campus safety by combatting hazing, provide due process standards for student organizations, and exempt volunteer advisors from being designated as campus security authorities and/or mandatory reporters.

National and international leaders of sororities and fraternities understand that our existence on campuses necessarily involves a partnership with our host institutions, and we value those relationships. But when oversight overreaches, we have to protect our future, in part by stepping up our efforts regarding regulation and legislation.

Yes, we face challenges ... today and in the future. But I believe we are more than capable of meeting them. and when Theta calls on us in different ways and at different times in this battle for our very existence, we must be prepared to answer and to act.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the work of Theta's ERM committee on pages 12 and 13 of the Spring Theta magazine. (online version: kappaalphatheta.org/members/kappa-alpha-theta-magazine), and more about the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee at <http://fspac.com>.

MEASURING THE MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Collecting and analyzing data—facts, figures, and *statistics*—might seem at odds with *experiencing* Theta sisterhood. Yet measuring the Theta experience can help us make decisions about our future as well as measure and improve the impact of our organization.

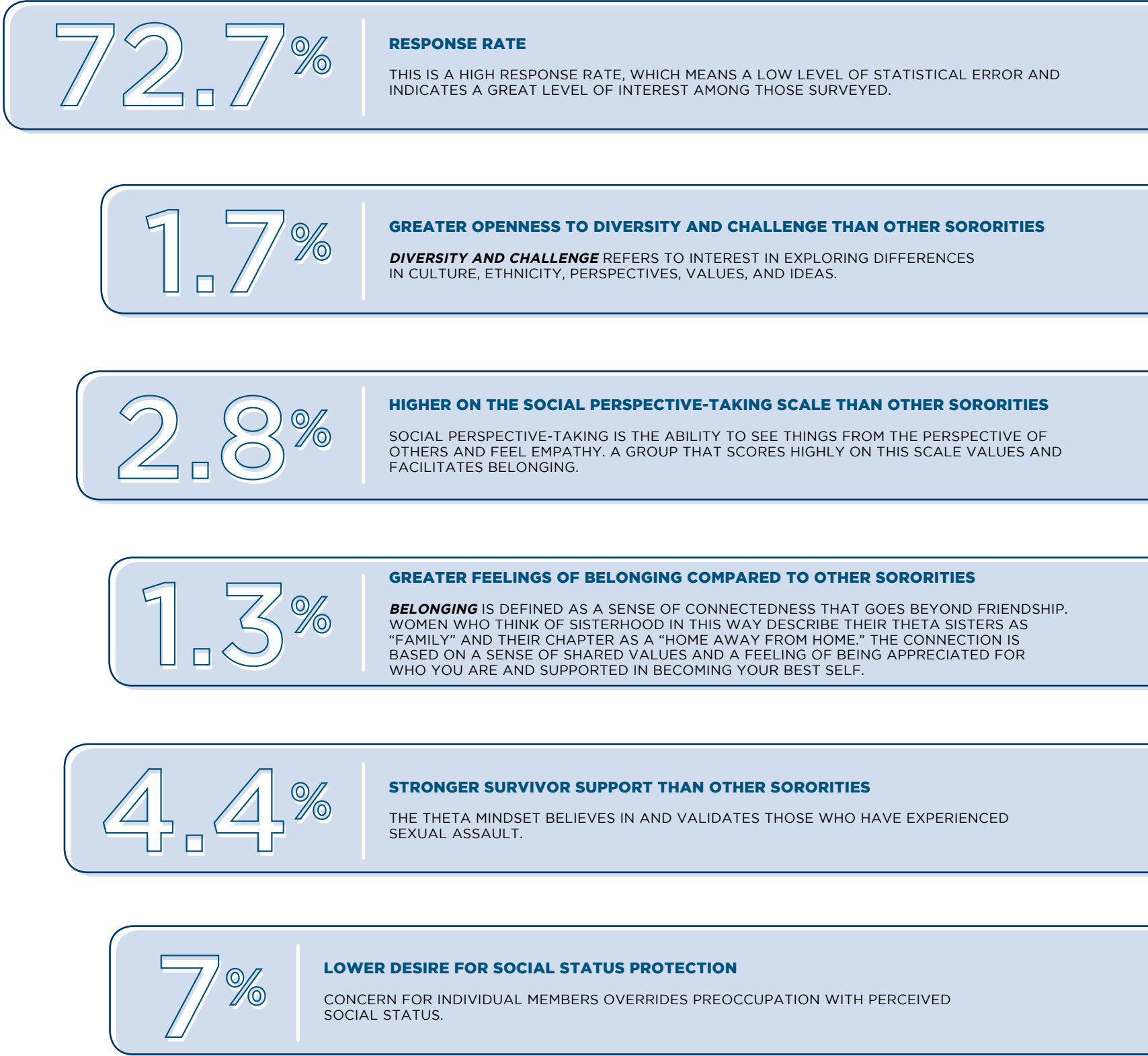
In 2015, Kappa Alpha Theta announced a new five-year strategic plan, the Plan of Aspirations. While it includes many aspirations and outcomes for our organization, it focuses specifically on goals for our undergraduate chapters and members. These include creating and fostering positive relationships (sisterhood), promoting member wellness, and building leadership skills and capacity.

Accordingly, Theta has partnered with Dyad Strategies, an assessment and research firm, to help study and assess our college membership experience by means of annual surveys.

Data from the first survey of 16,372 collegians is helping us better understand what our college sisters are gaining from their Theta involvement and the overall strengths and areas of improvement for our 146 college chapters. Data collected in subsequent years and compared to the baseline data from the first survey will not only continue to measure the impact of specific goals for Theta college chapters but also the broad impact of Theta membership. In addition, it will evaluate chapter culture, using data to give Fraternity leadership a better understanding of the unique character, strengths, and areas of improvement for each Theta chapter.

We thought you'd be interested in the data points on the next page. They compare Theta collegians' scores on sisterhood-related attributes to those of members of other Greek-letter women's groups.

SURVEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE





The same thought often pops into Simran Baidwan’s mind as she maneuvers the one-hour commute from her home in the Beachwood Canyon section of Los Angeles to a staff writers’ office in Santa Monica. “After nine years as a working writer, I still get giddy driving to work,” Baidwan says. “I feel like Charlie Bucket—winning the gold ticket and the chance to visit Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory.”

These days, the “gold ticket” is Baidwan’s position as a staff writer and co-producer of ABC’s top-rated medical drama, *The Good Doctor*. And the “chocolate factory” doubles as the professional environment fostered by the show’s creator and showrunner David Shore, a name Baidwan says appears on every television writer’s wish list.

“As a staff, we can pitch far-fetched ideas without fear of being chastised,” says Baidwan, Zeta Rho/UC San Diego. “David doesn’t stifle your voice; he wants to help you grow.” She also credits Shore with assembling a diverse team of male and female writers that represent different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences.

The Good Doctor centers on Shaun Murphy, a young autistic surgeon with savant syndrome, who relocates from a quiet country life to join the surgical unit at the prestigious San Jose St. Bonaventure Hospital—a move strongly supported by his longtime mentor, Dr. Aaron Glassman. Episodes chronicle Shaun’s journey as he seeks his niche, using extraordinary medical skill and intuition to save lives and to challenge his colleagues’ skepticism. The first episode aired September 25, 2017.

“I wake up with these characters, have lunch with them, and often take them to bed with me,” says Baidwan of the world she constructs at San Jose St. Bonaventure Hospital. “I’m so fortunate to hang out every day with a team of intelligent, creative writers and play make-believe.”

GROWING UP “DIFFERENT”

Stretching her imagination and finding her voice were pillars of Baidwan’s childhood. She was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay area, where she and her family lived first in San Jose and later in Fremont. Her parents, whose marriage was arranged, emigrated from India. Her father, a now-retired mechanical engineer, came to the United States in 1959, and her mother, a recently retired customer service representative for American Airlines with a background in banking loan services, arrived after the couple married in 1972.

As *desi*, the colloquial term for a person of Indian or South Asian descent who lives abroad, Baidwan’s childhood experiences often were singular.

“I realized in grade school that I had a different name, look, and family compared to my classmates,” she recalls. “I didn’t encounter ‘brown kids’ like me until junior high. When I met other children of immigrants—Korean, Japanese—I felt they understood me and had experienced a similar upbringing.”

Indian parents prioritize security for their children, a mindset typically based on their own experiences of overcoming adversity. For Baidwan’s parents, security translated to a college education for their daughter that would lead to a “traditional” career, ideally in the medical, legal, or engineering fields. “My parents worked hard to come to the United States, and getting an education and finding a job was their whole objective,” Baidwan explains. “The hope was that their children’s stories would be different.”

She recalls support and encouragement for every new chapter. “I loved school and was very drawn to academics,” she says. “I told my mom that I wanted to be the first female president of the United States. And when NASA was looking for teachers to send into space, I wrote (the agency) a letter recommending my fifth-grade teacher.



Freddie Highmore, who portrays the lead character in *The Good Doctor*, and Simran Baidwan photographed while shooting an episode she wrote titled “Not Fake.”

“Those were goals that seemed completely attainable to me.”

Perhaps a precursor to her profession, Baidwan was intrigued by television and watched compulsively. *Brady Bunch* re-runs were entertaining, but she recalls *The Cosby Show* as particularly influential. “It was the first time I saw people of color on television that I identified with: the parents were professionals and the kids went to school,” she says. “They felt like my family.”

Films also opened new vistas. After studying about Mozart as a fifth-grader, Baidwan’s parents took her to see the movie *Amadeus*. “It’s dark and shows the underbelly of Mozart’s life,” she says. “But my parents never discouraged me from reading books or seeing movies. Instead, they’d watch with me and have open conversations afterwards.”

“I wake up with these characters, have lunch with them, and often take them to bed with me. I’m so fortunate to hang out every day with a team of intelligent, creative writers and play make-believe.”

The pattern is one that Baidwan now perpetuates with her own children; son Sage, 9, and daughter Thea, 4.

“I love Steven Spielberg films – he is such a visionary and greatly influenced my desire to be a storyteller,” she says. “I recently re-watched *E.T.* with my kids, and even though the special effects are 35 years old, the heart of the story remains so emotionally riveting.

“Sage and Thea were equally engaged throughout the movie, and at the end we were all in tears.”



Simran Baidwan on *The Good Doctor* set. “I have no idea how to actually operate the camera!” she said.

BUILDING A NEW CHAPTER

As an undergraduate at UC San Diego, Baidwan fulfilled her parents’ wishes for practicality and her own passion for storytelling—graduating with a double major in communication with an emphasis on film and television, as well as political science with emphasis in pre-law. She wrote many short stories throughout college, and produced short films and projects, but admits her vision didn’t originally extend to writing for television.

And until her junior year, Theta wasn’t part of Baidwan’s vision, either. “I went through (recruitment) as a freshman, but didn’t find my fit,” she recalls. Her interest was piqued, however, when a good friend and member of Phi Gamma Delta told her that Kappa Alpha Theta was considering installment of a UC San Diego chapter. “He encouraged me to research Theta nationally and to learn what the sorority represented,” Baidwan says.

She was impressed by what she discovered; specifically, Theta’s focus on academics, philanthropy, and community service. And when she and a core group of friends met with representatives from national headquarters, Baidwan sensed that Thetas practiced what they preached.

“Being part of the (Zeta Rho) charter class was a great experience. We formed a community of women that supported education, and created an environment where you were applauded for your intelligence and desire to raise each other up.”

“I wasn’t finding what I was looking for, so why not build something from the ground up?” she says of the Zeta Rho Chapter, which was installed on February 12, 1994, with about 40 members. “Being part of the charter class was a great experience. We formed a community of women that supported education, and created an environment where you were applauded for your intelligence and desire to raise each other up.

“Theta also gave me such a great foundation of female camaraderie and philanthropy, which is something I carry forward with my children today. Community service is not just about writing a check. It’s about going to food drives and toy drives and giving your gifts.

“In order to gain awareness, you need to see the difference you’re making.”

Following graduation, Baidwan went to law school at University of San Diego, a career path her parents welcomed as “normal” compared to creative writing. She completed clerkships in criminal law, and ultimately was hired as a prosecutor at the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office. Her husband, Vince Bonotto, a fellow UC San Diego and University of San Diego law school graduate, was a prosecutor for the same office.

But even as Baidwan practiced law, stories continued to percolate, pressing to be told.

“I still wrote short stories on my own and would often wake up in the middle of the night with an idea,” she recalls. “After about four years, I reached a critical point. When I re-evaluated, I wasn’t sure that law was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I realized it wasn’t fulfilling me creatively.”

Baidwan credits her good friend Glenn Geller, then a junior executive at CBS, with opening her next chapter. Geller, who eventually became CBS Entertainment president, shared her résumé with an executive producer of the network’s drama series, *Judging Amy*. In a “plot” that serendipitously connected to her legal background, Baidwan was hired as the executive producer’s assistant.

“I really just wanted to learn, and I think people appreciated my candor,” says Baidwan, who moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles in July 2004 and was joined by her husband the following spring. “The executive director was the apex of *Judging Amy*, and every big decision went through his office.”

Baidwan continued to hone her skills, working in various capacities for shows including *Chicago Med* and *Royal Pains*. Among the highlights were positions as an assistant to a director and then to a writing team for *House*, another hit series created by David Shore.

“Along the way I saw everything that was connected to television writing, production, and post-production,” she says. “And I learned that I wanted to be the one who creates the stories.”

BRINGING “MAKE-BELIEVE” TO LIFE

In the television world, shows are as individual as their creators in terms of numbers of writers and episodes, production timelines, and the ways in which showrunners designate responsibilities. A total of 11 writers are on staff for *The Good Doctor*, and the show aired 18 episodes last season.

For staff writers, the creative process starts with brainstorming and pitching their ideas to Shore, who then assigns specific episodes. “I like to make people cry, and I gun for the heartstrings,” says Baidwan of her proposed story lines. Last season, she wrote two episodes: Number Six, called “Not Fake,” in which Shaun and colleague Claire Browne devise an experimental procedure to save the leg and life of a young groom; and Number 14, called “She,” in which Shaun learns that his young cancer patient identifies as a girl while being biologically male and must quickly learn to understand his patient, her medical needs, and how to work with her family.

“I find a nugget, and my imagination goes wild.”

“We brainstorm ideas, but the actual writing and outlining of an episode is largely solo and it takes weeks,” Baidwan says. “Some episodes have about 50 scenes, and I’m breaking down every scene and every person’s point of view.”

Episodes are also carefully researched. While writing “She,” Baidwan spent time in children’s hospitals and interviewed directors of trans youth programs. “(The show) has a public responsibility to share accurate information,” she says. “We can tell compelling stories, but they must be based on truth.”

Final edits and revisions are a collaborative process with Shore. Writers also take ownership of their episodes and are intricately involved in production. *The Good Doctor* is filmed in Vancouver, British Columbia, and shooting each episode generally takes nine 12-hour days.

“I’m also involved in prepping the episode, which involves dissecting the script page-by-page with the directors of wardrobe, casting and set,” Baidwan says. “For instance, does a bedroom need to look more masculine or feminine? Does it reflect a working class character, or one that’s affluent? I also work with the actors to make sure they say lines a certain way or in a certain tone, all in order to capture the essence of the scene.

“It’s one thing to write an episode, but it’s another to produce it and to shepherd it into reality,” she adds. “I’ve learned what works and how to make decisions on the fly.”

In the Season One finale, Shaun’s mentor, Dr. Glassman, learns he has brain cancer and will need surgery and treatment. “The prognosis is hopeful, but the question is how Shaun will react to a possible role reversal, in which he could be taking care of his mentor,” says Baidwan, who expects to write at least two episodes for the show’s 2018-19 season.

And as she continues to develop the character and life of Dr. Shaun Murphy, Baidwan sees a bit of herself in each scenario.

“Shaun resonates with me,” she says. “He wants to belong, to be part of the group, which relates to my upbringing and wanting to be like all the other kids. Maybe I infuse a bit of this into Shaun, who will never have ‘normal’ experiences.

“It’s also important to me that we let our characters make mistakes. They’re not superheroes.”

SEEKING INSPIRATION

Baidwan has written television pilots in the past, and her dream is to someday create her own show from the ground up: selling the concept, assembling a team, and putting her voice forward through her characters.

“I’ll start with what interests me,” she says. “What’s a world I want to live in, and who do I want to inhabit it? For me, it’s always about the characters first. I’m constantly jotting things down—at a dinner party, something I hear on the radio, or a conversation between a cashier and bagger at the grocery store. I find a nugget, and my imagination goes wild.

Travel will also be a rich source of inspiration. Growing up, Baidwan traveled extensively with her parents, and she hopes to share similar adventures with her son and daughter: possibly a safari, and definitely a trip to India to visit extended family.

“There’s a rich cultural education to be gained through travel,” she says. “I want my son and daughter to have an appreciation for and understanding of their roots and pride in their identity.”

But the best part of any adventure, Baidwan believes, are the “characters” you choose for the journey.

“Surround yourself with people who believe in you, lift you up, and support you no matter what,” she says. “Some of my closest relationships to this day are with women I met in college and were fortified by Kappa Alpha Theta.

“Professionally speaking, I think it’s equally important to surround yourself with positive and inspiring people. You need those colleagues and mentors who know where you’ve been and will lend advice to help guide you so you can forge ahead.

“I am always re-invigorated after hanging out with smart, strong, resilient women. It really does make you feel like you can go out and conquer the world.”



Hill Harper, Simran Baidwan, and Chuku Modu, photographed while shooting an episode of *The Good Doctor*, titled “She,” that Baidwan wrote. Harper and Modu portray surgeons in the series.



The video village is a portable area that allows crew members to see what the camera “sees” while shooting an episode of *The Good Doctor*. Jamie MacQuarrie, digital image technician; Seth Gordon, director; Simran Baidwan, writer; Laura Collini, script supervisor; and John Bartley, director of photography.

New Website Features

Our brand-new website debuted in May! We're thrilled with its streamlined, elegant new look. We're also thrilled that the Fraternity, Theta Foundation, and FHC are encompassed in one simple, unified site. Here are some of our favorite features.



One Theta

Merging the sites of all three Theta entities makes navigation even easier and more convenient for members and non-members alike.

Join Theta

Learning more about Theta, values-based recruitment, and what the Theta experience can offer college women is easily accessible to potential new members and parents.

Support Thetas

Supporting Theta—whether it's by volunteering, making a gift, or joining Life Loyal—is even quicker and easier.

Contact Form

Getting answers to your Theta-related questions is just a button-click away.

An advertisement for Anne Koplik jewelry. It features a close-up of a necklace with a gold-colored chain and several charms, including a yellow and black flower-shaped charm and a circular charm with a Swarovski crystal. A white tag with the word 'LOVE' in large black letters and 'KAPPA ALPHA THETA EST. 1870' in smaller text is attached to the necklace. The background is dark and textured.

You shop, we give.

Anne's daughter, Kara, is a KAΘ alumnae and is honored to be able to give back to KAΘ! 20% of your entire purchase at www.annekoplik.com (not just our Kappa Alpha Theta Collection) will be donated to KAΘ Foundation on behalf of the KAΘ Westchester, NY Alumnae Chapter. Don't forget to click "donate" at checkout!

ANNE KOPLIK
Handcrafted with ♥ in USA
with crystals from Swarovski®

www.annekoplik.com

Grand Convention 2018 was one for the books!

The Kappa Alpha Theta logo, featuring a stylized black and white diamond shape with a white 'K' inside. Below the logo, the text 'KAPPA ALPHA THETA' is written in a serif font. Underneath that, the phrase 'powerful connections' is written in a cursive script. At the bottom, 'GRAND CONVENTION 2018' is written in a sans-serif font, flanked by horizontal lines.

CELEBRATE #THETALOVE BY LOOKING FOR HIGHLIGHTS AND PHOTOS FROM GRAND CONVENTION 2018 IN THE AUTUMN 2018 ISSUE.

Celebrating Theta @

By Noraleen Duvall Young, Alpha Chi/Purdue, staff archivist



With our 150th anniversary just around the corner in 2020, an archives display at Grand Convention 2018 explored how Theta celebrated each of our major anniversaries: the 50th in 1919/1920, the 75th in 1946 (delayed a year due to World War II), the 100th in 1970, and the 125th in 1995.



Nearly 800 Thetas enjoyed interacting with archival photos, documents, and artifacts. This display included the pins given in 1920 to Bettie Locke Hamilton and Hannah Fitch Shaw to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our founding. The coat-of-arms-shaped pins include a banner inscribed *Founder*.



The 125th anniversary in 1995 was a smaller celebration than the centennial. Members were asked to "Pause and reflect on the significance of Kappa Alpha Theta membership in your life, to recall Theta friends who have been especially meaningful to you, and to renew a personal commitment to the Fraternity." We were also asked to wear black and gold ribbons behind our Theta badges on Founders Day. The T-shirt and note cube featured images from Theta history.



Name tags, programs, and other Convention memorabilia from the Centennial Grand Convention in 1970 were collected by Genevieve Hartley Cones and Carole Cones Bradfield, both Alpha/DePauw, granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Bettie Locke Hamilton. Carole served as Alpha's delegate and even wore her great-grandmother's dress for one of the dinners.



Scrapbook and diary of Betsy Townsend Zahn, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State, who attended the 1946 Grand Convention as a delegate from her chapter.



Songs were an important part of the 1970 Convention, including a special Centennial song written by Virginia Tipton and Mary Catherine Alvarez, both Beta Nu/Florida State.



Throughout the centennial year, Thetas were encouraged to participate in many activities, including "kite flights."



The 75th anniversary of Theta's founding had occurred in the previous year, 1945, during World War II. Meeting in Pasadena, California, at the Huntington Hotel, more than 500 attendees reconnected in 1946, celebrating the end of the war as well as our Diamond Jubilee. It was at this Convention that the first national philanthropy project—the Institute of Logopedics—was chosen. Theta supported the Institute, now Heartsprings, until 1989. Attendees took an afternoon to visit movie studios, and two Theta actors of the day, Nancy Coleman, Alpha Lambda/Washington, and Marjorie Henshaw (stage name, Anabel Shaw), Beta Xi/UCLA, judged one evening's event.



Artifacts in this display case reflect all our past anniversary celebrations, including a customized 1970 convention program for Dorothy "Dee" Schulze Vaaler, Tau/Northwestern, Fraternity executive secretary; a charm given to all attendees of the 1919 Golden Jubilee Convention; greeting cards with a special cancellation mark for the centennial, a Jubilee Banquet program which included space for autographs; Betsy Townsend Zahn's diary and scrapbook; and the Founders pins.



MARIELLE
CORTEZ

Phi/Pacific

TEN QUESTIONS WITH ONE THETA

10 QUESTIONS

MARIELLE CORTEZ, PHI/PACIFIC, HAS A DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND HAS WORKED AS A DESIGN ENGINEER FOR TOYOTA. SHE FONDLY RECALLS GOING TO CAR SHOWS AND RACES AS A CHILD AND SPENDING HOURS WITH HER DAD IN THE GARAGE WHILE HE WORKED ON HIS CAR. THROUGH THESE EXPERIENCES, SHE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR CARS.

WHEN CHOOSING MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AS A MAJOR, SHE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW THE ENVIRONMENT SHE GREW UP IN HAD INFLUENCED HER PERSONALITY AND INTERESTS. SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE IDEA OF APPLYING ENGINEERING IN A CREATIVE WAY, PARTICULARLY THROUGH COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (CAD). THIS COMBINATION OF BACKGROUND AND ENTHUSIASM LED TO HER DREAM OF BECOMING A DESIGN ENGINEER IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY.

1 WE UNDERSTAND YOU'RE KIND OF CRAZY ABOUT CARS. WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN BUT PROBABLY DON'T?

Something people don't realize is that cars take several years to design before they are unveiled on the market. The automotive industry sometimes works on vehicles five years in advance. For instance, back in 2016, I did research for a vehicle with a projected release date in 2021.

2 WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

My proudest accomplishment is having persevered through all life has thrown at me so far. For years, I have been struggling with depression and anxiety. I also developed low self-esteem and other insecurities that come with being a survivor of sexual assault. I'm proud of speaking up and speaking out about mental health. I believe my experiences are not something to be ashamed of, but rather, something I truly hope can inspire others and encourage them to never give up on their dreams. I started 2014 at one of the lowest points in my life, but by the end of it, I had built up my confidence and drive. With that, everything else in life started to fall in place and I landed my dream job as a design engineer in the automotive industry at the age of 20.

3 IF YOU HAD AN ALL-EXPENSES PAID VACATION TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

I would definitely go to Monaco for the Formula 1 Grand Prix!

4 "LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS..."

I also have a passion for the performing arts. From songwriting for the guitar to competitive ballroom dancing, performing is my favorite outlet for expressing myself.

5 DOGS, CATS, OR HOUSE PLANTS?

Dogs! I currently have three.

6 WHAT SOUND DO YOU LOVE? WHAT SOUND DO YOU HATE?

I love the sound of engines starting up on the morning of a race day. I hate the sound of my alarm clocks. Yes, clocks is plural. I am not a morning person, and I'm a pretty deep sleeper, so it takes several alarms from several sources to get me up sometimes.

7 TELL US ABOUT A LIFE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED.

What I've learned is that life doesn't get any easier, you just get stronger. With that strength, you have the power to choose. Do not be a product of your circumstances. Be a product of your choices. Regardless of your past, you have the power to choose where you go from there. I almost didn't go to the career fair that led to my dream job. I was at one of the lowest points in my life, but in the last 30 minutes of that career fair, I chose to give it my best shot. I had no idea that one choice would change my life.

8 WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

I value honesty. I think communication is very important in any relationship, be it platonic, romantic, or familial.

9 WHAT DOES THE PHRASE WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN MEAN TO YOU?

The first thought that came to mind is women paving the way for other women to succeed in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). I have spent years volunteering in workshops that encourage middle-school- and high-school-aged women to pursue a future in STEM. I think this definitely applies in a more generic sense as well.

10 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THETA MEMORY?

My favorite thing about being in Theta is the continued support by my sisters. I credit a lot of my personal and professional growth to my experiences as a Theta. I really found my own confidence and owned it with the support of my sisters. Unconditional bonds do last a lifetime.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS



A

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

A

Julia Varnes, Delta Theta/Florida, was recently selected as the 2017-2018 University of Florida Teacher of the Year. "I have been privileged to teach some amazing students and have had several Thetas in my classes. In fact, one [Delta Theta member] who was my student a few years ago wrote a letter of support for my Teacher of the Year packet!"

B

Cydney Donnell Lotito, Delta Omega/Texas A&M, was recognized with the 2018 Partner in Philanthropy Faculty Award by the Texas A&M Foundation for her continued efforts to support and fundraise for the Texas A&M University Master of Real Estate program. She is executive professor of finance and director of real estate programs in Mays Business School. This award celebrates faculty members who demonstrate lasting commitment to philanthropy and Texas A&M University.

C

Jennifer Wilson Carlstedt, Delta Theta/Florida, has been Keller Williams Tampa Central's top-producing real estate agent for two years in a row! She said, "The best part about my job is helping friends find the perfect home!"

D

Fashion designer **Tory Burch, Beta Eta/Pennsylvania**, appeared on ABC Radio's *No Limits* with Rebecca Jarvis. In the interview, Burch talked about how being a founding member of the Beta Eta Chapter fueled her entrepreneurial spirit.

E

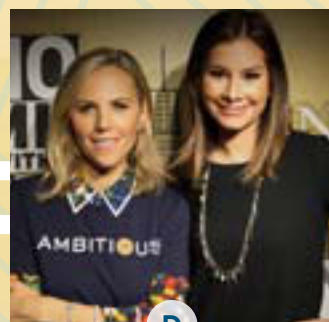
Anne McIntosh Schneider, Epsilon Iota/Westminster, received Westminster's Jack Marshall Alumni Loyalty Award in April. She spent more than 28 years in public service as assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Division of the Missouri Attorney General's office. The Jack Marshall Alumni Loyalty Award is presented annually to an alumnus who demonstrates continued interest in Westminster college through time, talent, influence, and/or funds and who demonstrates exceptional commitment and dedication to the college.

F

The Beta Iota Chapter at Colorado established an award named after **Kathleen Markey, Chi/Syracuse**: the Kathleen Markey Inspirational Theta Award. This award recognizes a sister who most inspires others by her example, accomplishments, contributions to the chapter, and outstanding character. Markey demonstrates a longtime dedication to the chapter and the women of Beta Iota Chapter consider her an incredible role model. The award will recognize one collegian per semester.



B



D



F



G

G

The Summer List, a novel by **Amy Doan Mason, Omega/UC Berkeley**, tells the story of best friends reuniting after 17 years and the scavenger hunt that brought them back together. *Publishers Weekly* said of the book, "This accomplished debut novel from Doan cleverly blends a coming-of-age tale, the story of a long-simmering mystery, and a thoughtful study of relationships between childhood friends," and "Doan's characters leap off the page, believably struggling with the conflict between resentment and tenderness."

H

Kappa Alpha Theta's digital media manager, **Lauren McCarty Palmer, Beta/Indiana**, was elected to the 2018-2020 Fraternity Communications Association (FCA) Board of Directors in May. FCA is a professional organization dedicated to enhancing fraternity communications through the exchange of ideas, experiences, and information. Palmer joined Theta headquarters staff in 2012; she is also a member of the Indianapolis chapter of Women Writing for a Change, a national organization aimed at nourishing and celebrating female voices, and director of marketing for Indianapolis Moms Blog.



H

COLLEGIANS

COLLEGIANS

I

Members of the **Beta Nu Chapter at Florida State University** celebrated sisterly love and CASA at a GALentines Dinner benefiting the Tallahassee Guardian ad Litem (GAL) chapter. Members spent the evening sharing stories and writing empowering love notes to their Theta and other Panhellenic sisters. All members brought toy and gift card donations to give to the local guardians.



I

Snapshots

ALUMNAE

ALUMNAE

J

Members of the **Nature Coast Alumnae Chapter** celebrated Founders Day in January. Pictured are **Mary Halliday Pike, Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan; Judy London Marcus, Beta Lambda/William & Mary; Barbara Rowat Flam, Beta Psi/McGill; Shirley Wood Hartley, Gamma Omicron/New Mexico; Nancy Berend Forbes, Psi/Wisconsin; Layne Lowrey Clark, Delta Omicron/Alabama; Nancy Reese Rinker, Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan; and Melissa Bruns, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern.**



J

K

Six alumnae members of the **Beta Iota Chapter** at **Colorado** had a mini-reunion in Portland, Oregon, late last year. The women in attendance were **Leigh Mills Wilson, Melinda Moore Tesar, Marcia Ferguson Velde, Karen Fitzgerald Hutchinson, Lynn Bolton Fischer, and Cindy Allen Oakford.**



K

L

Members of the **Westchester NY Alumnae Chapter** and the **Eta Xi Chapter** at **Quinnipiac** gathered for Founders Day in Mt. Kisco, New York.



L

M

The **Flatirons Alumnae Chapter** celebrated Founders Day in February in Boulder, Colorado.



M

N

Fifteen members of the 1962 new member class of the **Alpha Chi Chapter** at **Purdue** met in Palm Beach, Florida, in February to celebrate their 75th birthdays together.



N

O

Jeanne Patterson Mazzoni, Delta Iota/Puget Sound, and her husband met a woman by chance outside a theater one evening. After hitting it off and sharing many other visits, Mazzoni learned the woman is also Theta: **Norma Lee Wood, Alpha Lambda/Washington.** "[Our] visits have continued, and one of them included Norma saying that she attended the University of Washington and lived in a sorority house. I asked her what house and she said, so proudly, 'Theta.' At that point, we both raised our hands for a high-five as I told her that I am a Theta, too."



O

P

Millie Jenkins McVey and **Betsy Townsend Zahn,** both **Alpha Gamma/Ohio State,** enjoyed lunch earlier this year and Zahn shared the handwritten diary she wrote while attending Grand Convention 1946 in Pasadena. The diary includes her experience of traveling by train with other Thetas, legislation and speaker information, and more memorable details.



P



Q

Q

Laurie Strawman Dorfman, Beta Sigma/SMU; Jane Huston Humphreys, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma; Dinah Hampton McClymonds, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma; Nancy Sellingsloh Bertin, Alpha Theta/Texas; and Marti Stilwell Peterson, Alpha Rho/South Dakota, visited the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch in Stonewall, Texas.

R

Eleanor (Benny) Benfer Lohman, Beta Phi/Penn State, and Judi Welborn Stansbury, Kappa/Kansas, met at a water aerobics class in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, and soon discovered they are both Thetas whose love of skiing brought them both to Colorado after retirement. Lohman joined the US Navy and served during World War II, and she now is an active member of the local Vets for Veterans organization. Stansbury and her husband were posted abroad with the US State Department and have lived in eight countries. Judi is now a volunteer for ASPIRE, a non-profit organization that offers medical services and educational programs to young mothers and fathers.



R

S

At the **Tyler Alumnae Chapter's** Founders Day event, three alumnae members of the **Delta Nu Chapter** at **Arkansas** found each other in Texas! Pictured are **Ann Oudin Jarrel, Holly Marsh, and Camille Cain Tollett.**



S

T

In May, the **Nashville Alumnae Chapter** honored **Cathy Cook Krumm, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi,** as their 2018 Theta of the Year. Celebrating the occasion are **Ann Rickert Kloeppel, Gamma Iota/Kentucky; Adrienne Molnar Nordman, Gamma/Butler; Shannon Muntz Holt, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma; Carolyn Rickert Fatheree, Beta Sigma/SMU; Vicki Laughlin McCluggage, Omicron/USC; Michelle Crowell Coburn, Alpha Iota/Washington-St. Louis; Cathy Krumm; and Lissa Luton Bradford, Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt.**



T

U

Some St. Louis-area Thetas gather regularly for their **Theta Book Club.** Pictured are **Betsy Schultz Humphreys, Epsilon Iota/Westminster; Janet Peterson, Alpha Mu/Missouri; Liz McDaniel Peterson, Gamma Mu/Maryland; Celeste Dubuque Sprung, Beta Tau/Denison; Mary Collins Hellman, Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan; and Angie Del Pizzo Link, Alpha Mu/Missouri.**



U

Snapshts



#ThetasGotYourBack

Women
supporting
Women

We're different.

THERE ARE MANY ORGANIZATIONS WE CAN JOIN AS COLLEGIANS AND ALUMNAE. BUT THE THING IS, THETA ISN'T LIKE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

Our members are different.

AND WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE IT...

To stand out—

TO BE UNAPOLOGETICALLY AUTHENTIC.
AT THETA'S HEART, WE ARE WOMEN SUPPORTING AND CELEBRATING WOMEN. A NEW VIDEO, UNVEILED AT GRAND CONVENTION, ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSES THIS, EVEN TO THOSE WHO WOULD QUESTION THE RELEVANCE IN TODAY'S WORLD OF THE FIRST GREEK-LETTER FRATERNITY FOR WOMEN.
YOU CAN WATCH THE VIDEO ON OUR WEBSITE:
KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG/JOIN-THETA.

NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE IN LIFE, THETA SEEKS TO INSPIRE US AND ENCOURAGE US TO BE OUR BEST SELVES. YOU CAN FOLLOW STORIES OF THETA SUPPORT—AND SHARE YOUR OWN!—USING THE HASHTAG #THETASGOTYOURBACK.

The Power of 1+ 216,799

Imagine the impact of 216,800 Thetas, all working to spread the widest influence for good!

THAT'S THE CONCEPT BEHIND OUR DAY OF SERVICE, WHEN WE ASK THETAS TO TAKE TIME FROM THEIR BUSY LIVES TO HONOR BETTIE LOCKE HAMILTON'S BIRTHDAY BY SERVING ON THEIR CAMPUSES OR IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

OCTOBER 19, 2018, IS OUR NINTH ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE, AND WE THANK ALL OF YOU WHO WILL HELP MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

LOOK FOR A GALLERY OF SERVICE PHOTOS ON OUR WEBSITE (KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG/EVENTS/DAY-OF-SERVICE) AND USE THE DAY OF SERVICE HASHTAG ([#THETADAYOFSERVICE](https://twitter.com/THETADAYOFSERVICE)) TO SHARE YOUR DAY OF SERVICE IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Then & Now

BY NORALEEN DUVALL YOUNG, ALPHA CHI/PURDUE

THETA SISTERHOOD

Today's version of Theta sisterhood is just as timeless as our founders': in Theta, we are challenged, supported, and inspired to be our best selves.

The Mu Chapter was founded at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, in 1876. "One of the sincerest compliments we have received was when someone said: 'You never see one Theta without seeing the whole bunch,' and of this fact we are rightly proud, for it illustrates the good fellowship, the true love and affection of Mu's children for each other," Amy Courtenay wrote in the November 1905 issue of the Theta magazine.

The Theta Omicron Chapter was installed November 11, 2017, at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. "I am so proud to say I am a Kappa Alpha Theta woman, but I am even more proud to say I am a Theta woman from the charter class of Theta Omicron with these stunning women," Sarah Hicks, Theta Omicron chief executive officer, wrote in the Winter 2018 issue of the Theta magazine.



Mu/Allegheny 1905



Theta Omicron/UNC Charlotte 2017



IN THE 148 YEARS SINCE THETA’S FOUNDING, MUCH IN THE WORLD HAS CHANGED. MUCH IN OUR FRATERNITY HAS CHANGED. BUT ONE THING REMAINS THE SAME: THETA’S COMMITMENT TO HIGH IDEALS AND HER PROMISE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH.

Life Loyal is a special level of membership. Through Theta Life Loyal, we embody the inherent worth and unlimited possibilities of lifelong sisterhood. Through Theta Life Loyal, we strengthen our ideals of individual achievement and work for the common good, as well as reinforce our shared experiences of service, scholarship, and sisterhood.

At the same time, Life Loyal is a great way to stay connected to Theta while still managing our busy lives. We often hear from alumnae that they love their

Theta experience, but don’t have time to be involved. We understand how busy life can get with family, friends, careers ... dedication to these important priorities exemplifies Theta values!

The next few years will be exciting for Theta as we prepare to celebrate our sesquicentennial in 2020! Enrolling in Theta Life Loyal helps our Fraternity continue to grow and thrive and provide women with an experience they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

BECOME A LIFE LOYAL THETA!

THESE WOMEN ENROLLED BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1 AND APRIL 30, 2018.

GAMMA/BUTLER Carol Jane Henzie King	ALPHA THETA/TEXAS Kathleen Munger Freeman Emily Robison Greer Carolyn Burton Hamilton	ALPHA OMEGA/PITTSBURGH Lee Ann Wagner Cica Rose A. Seelenbinder	BETA UPSILON/BRITISH COLUMBIA Natalie Tran	DELTA DELTA/WHITMAN Susan Behlke Foley	EPSILON PI/BUCKNELL Hadley Slocum
DELTA/ILLINOIS Sandra Milo	ALPHA IOTA/WASHINGTON-ST. LOUIS Melissa Doud Sims	BETA EPSILON/OREGON STATE Caryl Stevens Gibson	BETA CHI/ALBERTA Justina Mak	DELTA EPSILON/ARIZONA STATE Lindsey Ann Allemang Alison N. Matthews Alexandra Votaw	ZETA ETA/WOFFORD Katherine Martin Sanchez
KAPPA/KANSAS Laurie Macdonald Baker Waverly Deans Smith	ALPHA LAMBDA/WASHINGTON Mary Clanton Goldstein Haley G. Johnson	BETA ZETA/OKLAHOMA STATE Emily Waters	BETA OMEGA/COLORADO COLLEGE Sandra Sparks Olson	DELTA ZETA/EMORY Sarah Candler Schilling	ZETA THETA/CAL POLY Caitlin Mulcahey
GAMMA DEUTERON/OHIO WESLEYAN Sarah Kieta Kirwen	ALPHA MU/MISSOURI Melissa Weller Brookshire Elizabeth Barnette Bruce Susan McIntyre Hall	BETA IOTA/COLORADO Virginia Elkin Fuller	GAMMA ZETA/CONNECTICUT Cheryl Potter Walling	DELTA ETA/KANSAS STATE Madelyn Keller Yeo	ZETA IOTA/WASHINGTON & LEE Elizabeth Wolf
RHO/NEBRASKA Jane Johnson Ray	ALPHA XI/OREGON Francis Gillmore Blinks	BETA KAPPA/DRAKE Nancy Westphal Neuer	GAMMA IOTA/KENTUCKY Alyssa Taylor Franco Sally Wentworth Tieke	DELTA KAPPA/LSU Sarah Elizabeth Isaacs Margie O'Connor Karen Beth O'Connor	ZETA KAPPA/SOUTH CAROLINA Jennifer Noel Fletcher
UPSILON/MINNESOTA Abbie Burgess Susanne Jacqueline Flod Paula Bergin Soholt	ALPHA OMICRON/OKLAHOMA Kristen Ann Graybill Brooke Blood Jones Michelle McNamara	BETA MU/NEVADA JuanaJane Jabines Moon	GAMMA NU/NORTH DAKOTA STATE Paige Eidenschink Abby Leigh Hammes	DELTA TAU/DELAWARE Kaitlyn Felicetti	ZETA TAU/DELAWARE Kaitlyn Felicetti
PHI/PACIFIC Alexis Banuelos	ALPHA RHO/SOUTH DAKOTA Jacalyn Taylor Slingsby	BETA NU/FLORIDA STATE Jean Kosik Greene	GAMMA PI/IOWA STATE Mary Jo Baird Briedis	ETA THETA/CENTRAL FLORIDA Megan White Barrett Kaela M. Cromer Lauren Alexandra Lundy	ETA THETA/CENTRAL FLORIDA Megan White Barrett Kaela M. Cromer Lauren Alexandra Lundy
CHI/SYRACUSE Lauren Miller	ALPHA TAU/CINCINNATI Debra L. Hatfield	BETA XI/UCLA Julia M. Brighton Emily Flathers Elizabeth Ioannou	GAMMA RHO/UC SANTA BARBARA Gretchen Sonnenburg Wells	DELTA KAPPA/JOHN CARROLL Daniella Paras	ETA KAPPA/JOHN CARROLL Daniella Paras
PSI/WISCONSIN Ann Hoopes Champion Holly Brinen Hengl Janet Levis Ragatz	ALPHA PHI/TULANE Nina Murray O'Kelley Janet McDonald Smiljanic	BETA OMICRON/IOWA Molly Vipond	GAMMA SIGMA/SAN DIEGO STATE Alexandra Dutchover	ETA XI/QUINNIPIAC Nicole McInrey	ETA XI/QUINNIPIAC Nicole McInrey
OMEGA/UC BERKELEY Anne Murphy Kelley Angela Harrington Norton	ALPHA CHI/PURDUE Elizabeth Truitt Fenn	BETA PI/MICHIGAN STATE Carol Hofmann Evans	GAMMA TAU/TULSA Kimberly Hill Stephens	ETA PI/CASE WESTERN Rachel Willard	ETA PI/CASE WESTERN Rachel Willard
ALPHA GAMMA/OHIO STATE Barbara Dilts Havlovic	ALPHA PSI/LAWRENCE Janet Huehl Ravneberg	BETA RHO/DUKE Nancy Nieman Conover Christine F. Ericson	GAMMA CHI/FRESNO STATE Tamara O. Hansen	ETA TAU/TAMPA Alexandra Lee Rey	ETA TAU/TAMPA Alexandra Lee Rey
ALPHA ETA/VANDERBILT Sharon Chapin Crist		BETA SIGMA/SMU Melissa Kintzele Eliot Debbie Mitchell Price	GAMMA PSI/TCU Amber Burke Grider Leah Allen Van Driest	ETA PHI/BELMONT Lensie Paige Freeman	ETA PHI/BELMONT Lensie Paige Freeman
			GAMMA OMEGA/AUBURN Kristy Turner Harner	THETA MU/MINES Brooke Nezaticky	THETA MU/MINES Brooke Nezaticky
				EPSILON MU/PRINCETON Miranda Rosen	
				EPSILON OMICRON/RANDOLPH-MACON Regina Whitney Edwards	

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Since 1870, Theta has remained committed to high ideals and to providing opportunities for social, intellectual, and moral growth.

Yet providing these opportunities does not come without a cost, and that is why we created Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal. Our college members not only excel in academics and leadership on their college campuses, they also account for a significant portion of Theta's general treasury income.

When you enroll in Theta Life Loyal, you help free college dues and fees to support ethical, social, and educational programs that develop women of integrity and character. When you enroll in Theta Life Loyal, you help our Fraternity continue to foster dear friendships and nurture hopes and dreams for generations to come.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Online:
Simply go to **www.thetalifeloyal.org** to join and pay through our secure website.

Phone:
Call Theta headquarters, **800-526-1870**, to provide your contact and payment information over the phone.

Mail:
Print the enrollment form available at **www.thetalifeloyal.org** and mail the completed form with your check or credit card information to:
Kappa Alpha Theta
attn: Kristi Tucker
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268.

LIFE LOYAL MEMBERS RECEIVE

A lifetime subscription to the Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine
Fraternity dues payment for life*
A handcrafted lapel pin
A limited-edition gift from our Life Loyal collection and more!

*Not including alumnae chapter dues.

WHEN TRAUMA HITS HOME

For much of last December, I was glued to the local news and to my Facebook feed. Like most of Santa Barbara, I was obsessively tracking the Thomas Fire, a treacherous blaze that consumed Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and became the largest fire in the history of California.

It was an intense and—quite frankly—horrible couple of months.

and smoke lingered, juggled the emotional and physical needs of my two very scared daughters, and evacuated or helped others to evacuate ... all while trying to provide strong leadership for my organization.

And then, just as firefighters heroically saved our beautiful community and life was starting to get back to normal with the dawn of a new year, we were hit with devastating and deadly mudslides and debris flows on January 9.

I worried about the well-being of friends and colleagues, monitored air-quality levels as ash fell

Again, I found myself glued to Facebook, press briefings, and news stories. I emailed and texted and called everyone I knew who lived in Montecito, the community most directly impacted. I heard the harrowing stories of death and destruction on the news, and also directly from friends, neighbors and colleagues.

It was an intense and—quite frankly—horrible couple of months.

The catastrophic fire and mudslide rocked our small community. Collectively, we experienced devastation and heartbreak. Many of us felt shock, numbing, and sadness. Others felt guilt, helplessness, and a profound sense of loss. Hearing the tragic stories of others, I found myself disoriented, unable to focus, and moved to tears over the smallest of things. In short, I was traumatized.

When we experience trauma, even when we are not directly affected, we carry the emotional weight of what has happened. Although I did not lose my home or a



Alana Walczak, Alpha Iota/Washington-St. Louis, is chief executive officer of CALM, a non-profit organization headquartered in Santa Barbara, working to prevent childhood trauma, heal children and families, and build resilient communities. Prior to joining CALM in December 2015, she served as the vice president of PathPoint, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities or disadvantages reach their fullest potential. Walczak also worked for the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center and Domestic Violence Solutions of Santa Barbara County.

loved one in the Montecito debris flows, I was experiencing vicarious or secondary trauma, the emotional duress you feel when you hear the trauma experiences of another.

From my work at CALM, I've learned that there are ways you can take care of yourself during emotionally demanding and challenging times.

HONOR YOUR FEELINGS.

Acknowledge them, feel them, and let them pass over you.

PRIORITIZE SELF-CARE.

Carve out time that helps you feel whole and healthy.

GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO BE HAPPY EVEN IF OTHERS ARE SAD.

It's OK to enjoy the sunshine, to laugh with friends, or to play with your children.

RECOGNIZE YOUR LIMITS.

Take breaks from social media and the news.

PRIORITIZE CONNECTION.

Make time to meet up with other people to share your stories.

BE KIND.

Be gentle to yourself and others. Offer a helping hand to those in need.

And, most importantly, don't be too hard on yourself. Healing from trauma takes time and effort, and everyone recovers at her own pace. Remember that you can get there. And don't hesitate to ask for help when you need it.

Editor's note: Theta's Sisters Supporting Sister program offers free mental health screenings to determine if you or someone you care about should connect with a mental health professional. To learn more, go to kappaalphatheta.org/members/programs/sisters-supporting-sisters



Official Theta Jewelry

SEE THE FULL JEWELRY COLLECTION ON THE THETA WEBSITE

1.888.526.1870 EXT.116

www.kappaalphatheta.org



OUTBACK EXPLORER • January 14-30



BARCELONA • April 6-14



THETA TRAVELER

Connecting with sisters shouldn't stop at graduation. With alumnae trips across the globe, Theta Traveler is your chance to celebrate sisterhood and international adventure throughout your lifetime.

LEGENDARY EUROPE • May 2-10

NATIONAL PARKS • May 29-June 7



affinity.



KAPPA ALPHA THETA

www.thetatraveler.com



KAPPA ALPHA THETA

8740 Founders Road

Indianapolis, IN 46268-1300

Phone: 317.876.1870 | 1.800.526.1870

Fax: 317.876.1925

www.kappaalphatheta.org

VOICES

IT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU THAT MATTERS, IT'S HOW YOU REACT TO IT THAT DOES.

**Tara Storch, Delta Omega/Texas A&M
(Grand Convention, 6.30.2018)**

SELDOM IN MY LONG CAREER HAVE I ENCOUNTERED SUCH EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG PEOPLE SO CONSISTENTLY EAGER AND THOUGHTFUL, SO UNFAILINGLY ENTHUSIASTIC AND SUPPORTIVE, AND SO DEPENDABLY WILLING AND EXCITED TO HELP.

(See page 4)

WE STRIVE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN OUR BEST.

**Simi Bhangoo, Beta Chi/Alberta
(Hercampus.com, 3.23.2018)**

REGARDLESS OF YOUR PAST, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU GO FROM THERE.

**Marielle Cortez, Phi/Pacific
(See page 23)**

BEAUTY AND FASHION, COMBINED, ARE A 1.3 TRILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY THAT HAS MADE A BUSINESS OF SETTING UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF BEAUTY AND THEN PROFITING FROM—AND EXPLOITING—THE INSECURITIES THEY'VE HELPED CREATE.

**Carrie Hammer, Beta Xi/UCLA
(Grand Convention, 6.29.2018)**

I AM ALWAYS RE-INVIGORATED AFTER HANGING OUT WITH SMART, STRONG, RESILIENT WOMEN. IT REALLY DOES MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN GO OUT AND CONQUER THE WORLD.

**Simran Baidwan, Zeta Rho/UC San Diego
(See page 17)**

THANK YOU, THETA, FOR SHOWING ME THAT GOING TO AN OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGE IS NOT SCARY, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CAN FIND A BOND WITH GIRLS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SIMILAR THINGS.

**Taryn Leighton, Delta Omicron/Alabama
(Theodysseyonline.com, 6.19.2018)**